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Lewis [GB/GB]; 16 Hodson Fields, Barmby Moor, York YO42 4ER (GB). **GREENER, Bryan** [GB/GB]; 9 Beck Close, Elvington, York YO42 4BG (GB). **HARTWELL, Edward**, Yerbury [GB/GB]; 3 Haven Garth, Brough, Hull, East Rding of Yorkshire HU15 1EP (GB). **WALKER, Tina, Michelle** [GB/GB]; 30 Ox Calder Close, Dunnington, York YO19 5RJ (GB).

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(71) Applicant (for all designated states except US): SMITH & NEPHEW PLC [GB/GB]; 15 Adam Street, London WC2N 6LA (GB).

(72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BLOTT, Patrick,

(74) **Agent:** DRAGGETT, Peter, T.; Group Patents & Trade Marks Department, Smith Group Research Centre, York Science Park, Heslington, York YO10 5DF (GB).

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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR ASPIRATING, IRRIGATING AND CLEANSING WOUNDS

The diagram illustrates a waste disposal system. At the top, a rectangular unit contains components labeled 13, 16, 17, and 18. A vertical pipe connects this unit to a horizontal pipe. A valve assembly, including a float valve (14) and a check valve (12), is positioned on the horizontal pipe. An arrow labeled "To Waste" points downwards from the system. Below the main assembly, a curved pipe leads to a waste inlet mechanism. This mechanism is shown in a cross-sectional view with a dashed line indicating the internal structure. The waste inlet is labeled 3 and is connected to a horizontal pipe 8. A float valve 10 is located on this pipe. A lever arm 11 is attached to the float valve 10. A section view, labeled X-X, shows the internal components of the waste inlet. The section view includes labels 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, showing the flow path and the float valve mechanism.

(57) Abstract: An apparatus for cleansing wounds in which irrigant fluid from a reservoir (12) connected to a conformable wound dressing (3) and wound exudate from the dressing are recirculated by a device (18) for moving fluid through a flow path which passes through the dressing and a means (17) for fluid cleansing and back to the dressing. The cleansing means (which may be a single-phase, *e.g.* microfiltration, system or a two-phase, *e.g.* dialytic system) removes materials deleterious to wound healing, and the cleansed fluid, still containing materials that are beneficial in promoting wound healing, is returned to the wound bed. The dressing and a method of treatment using the apparatus.